

## LANDFILL FACT SHEET

Name: Fort Totten

Location: Bayside, Queens

Re: Environmental Concerns (mercury, UFO, and Landfill issues)

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### **United States Army Environmental Hygiene Agency - Phase 2 Geohydrologic Study From August 11-16, 1987: Section 3C - Study Background**

- 1) Land filling at Fort Totten occurred at 4 hectare area of the southeastern corner of the post adjacent to Little Neck Bay. Apparently this site was a salt marsh. Over time, the residents of Fort Totten filled the marsh with soil and other various debris. Included in the fill material may be **hazardous wastes and explosives**.
  - 2) Land filling operations began in late 1930's or early 1940's. By 1958, the landfill was closed. It is presently utilized for/by enlisted housing, 77<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Command (ARCOM) motor pool, attack dog training for NYPD, and open area.
  - 3) While the Phase I study concluded that the landfill did not pose an explosion hazard, the study could not conclude the existence of groundwater contamination at the site.
- Pg.19 (6) The data from the analyses for iron, sulfate, and manganese indicated that the landfill produces some leachate which may be migrating away from the landfill. These results also show that the landfill is degrading the environment of Little Neck Bay by possibly affecting the aquatic life of the bay. However, the leachate does not pose a threat to human health.
- (6c) However, since manganese bioaccumulates significantly in shell fish, clams in Little Neck Bay may be affected.

### **United States Army Environmental Hygiene Agency - Phase 3 Geohydrologic Study From April 17-21, 1989: Section 4C - Study Background (page 4)**

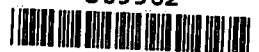
- 1) Land filling at Fort Totten occurred at 4 hectare area of the southeastern corner of the post adjacent to Little Neck Bay. Apparently this site was a salt marsh. Over time, the residents of Fort Totten filled the marsh with soil and other various debris. Included in the fill material may be **hazardous wastes and explosives**.
- 4) The Phase 2 sampling concluded that the landfill was producing leachate which had reached the groundwater and was migrating off-post. The report also concluded that the leachate should not pose a threat to human health or the environment, but may be affecting the aquatic life of Little Neck Bay.

**Conclusions-** The landfill is producing leachate which has reached the groundwater and is migrating off-post.

This leachate does not pose a direct health hazard to the public; however, it may have a significant detrimental affect on the environment of Little Neck Bay.

The public may be affected indirectly because shellfish from Little Neck Bay may be harvested and illegally sold to the local public.

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## MERCURY FACT SHEET

Name: Fort Totten

Location: Bayside, Queens

Re: Environmental Concerns (mercury, UFO, and Landfill issues)

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Past reports as well as the most recent **"Fort Totten Building 615 and Little Bay Human Health & Ecological Assessment Report"** dated November 1998 did not adequately delineate (horizontal/vertical) the extent of Mercury contamination in both the bay and shore line sediments. Also, the number of study organisms analyzed were limited. Split sampling by the QBP office consultant displayed similar analytical data.

## UXO FACT SHEET

Name: Fort Totten

Location: Bayside, Queens

Re: Environmental Concerns (mercury, UFO, and Landfill issues)

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### **Final Environmental Assessment for BRAC 95 Disposal and Reuse of Fort Totten - November 1998 Report - Section 4.9.6 (Ranges and UXO) page 4-29:**

Based on historical documentation and reports of UXO found at Fort Totten, there is the potential for UXO at several locations including the Old Fort area, where there was formerly a small firing range; the former and current open areas, where chemical and target practice occurred; and the ordnance storage areas. Fort Totten stored such items as bulk black powder, mines, torpedoes, grenades (hand, rifle, and smoke), and detonated explosives including grenades (cyanide and white smoke), rounds of ammunition, and prima-cord. Historical records indicate that troops trained with Chemical Identification Sets (USACE, 1996a).

A few qualified areas on the BRAC parcel have the potential for having UXO. Geographic Areas D and E, where ordnance testing and deployment occurred, are both qualified for and have been found to contain UXO. In addition, a small buried magazine near Bldg. 418 appears on a historic pre-1885 map.

An ordnance survey conducted in 1996 by the Corps of Engineers, found no ordnance debris. A risk assessment performed in March of 1995 gave a risk assessment code of 1 to Fort Totten. The RAC includes two rankings - **Hazard severity** (which is used to provide a qualitative measure of the worst credible mishap from personnel exposure to UXO and ranges from catastrophic to none), and **Hazard probability** (which is the probability that UXO will be encountered and ranges from frequent to improbable). Fort Totten ranked **Catastrophic** for hazard severity and **Probable** for hazard probability. As a result, an archives search was conducted and a limited field survey was conducted in June of 1996. Statistical sampling has been completed and no UXO was found).